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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY USSR

DATE DISTR. 17 May 1951

SUBJECT Health and Sanitation Data - Rovno

NO. OF PAGES 3

PLACE
ACQUIREDNO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)DATE
ACQUIREDSUPPLEMENT TO 50X1-HUM
REPORT NO.

DATE OF

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1. Rovno, in the Province of Volyn, is located approximately 125 miles north-east of Lvov, in the center of the "Ukraine Wheat Basket." Much of the grain produced in the Ukraine was stored here in granaries. At least four large, government-owned flour mills were located in the city; and the Ukraine's largest beet-sugar factory was located at Mizoch, about ten miles south of Volyn.
2. As of 1939, the population of Rovno was approximately 40 thousand; as of 1948, approximately 32 thousand, which latter figure did not include a division of soldiers stationed in barracks and municipal facilities. This division consisted of air personnel for the maintenance and operation of 30 airplanes; infantry, tanks, and artillery.
3. Railroads ran as follows -- (one-track): north to Zany and Pinsk. (Two-track): northwest to Kovel and Brest-Litovsk; southwest to Brody and Lvov; southeast to Shepetovka, Vervichev, and Kiev. About eight miles south of Rovno, the railroad divided, one going southwest to Brody and Lvov, the other going southeast to Shepetovka and Kiev. As about 90% of all railroad tracks running from the west to Kiev passed through this point, it was a very important railroad junction, and it was constantly under attack during World War II.
4. A military airfield, built by the Germans during the occupation, was located five miles north of Rovno.

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5. The primary highway which passed through Rovno was the main highway linking the countries of Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, and Rumania with Kiev and Eastern Russia. This highway, 40 feet in width, with a hard-surface top similar to blacktop highways in the US, connected with at least four secondary highways at Rovno.
6. In 1939, the annual birth rate, per thousand population, was 12 to 15; death rate, 7 to 10; infant mortality, about 5. From 1945 to 1948, the birth rate decreased and the death rate increased. Among the five leading causes of death, lung and heart disease accounted for 20 to 25% of the total deaths; pneumonia, 5 to 7%; undetermined infectious chronic and acute diseases, 15%; GI tract disease, 15%; TBC, up to 5%. Diseases regarded as endemic in this area, in descending order, were paratyphoid and para-typhoid fevers, typhus, tuberculosis, dysentery (bacillary and unspecified), and stomach ailments.
7. The city had a small public water system which furnished water to the business area, which comprised about 25% of the population lived. This water was pumped from a small river into a water tower, from where it was distributed. The water, which was treated chemically, had to be boiled when used for human consumption. The water came from good-quality private wells and springs throughout the city, but these were not inspected as to sanitation. 50X1-HUM
8. The local health department, which was poorly staffed and politically controlled, supervised slaughtering and the handling of meats, fish, and other foods. Milk was distributed from a central station, to children only. About 10% of the milk was pasteurized, but none of it was bottled. Only a few cattle were tuberculin-tested by the Health Department.
9. A municipally-owned sanitary sewerage system served about 25% of the people. Private sewage disposal was achieved by hauling away the waste in barrels and dumping it in the river or in land depressions. Vegetables were sold from farms on which human excreta were used as fertilizer. Garbage and other refuse was hauled away to vacant lots, where it was either burned or buried.
10. Bodies of the dead were buried in municipally-owned collective graves, each of which held from 50 to 100 bodies; private burials were permitted those who could afford them. There were no crematories.
11. There was no organized insect control of mosquitos, flies, lice, rodents, and other pests.
12. There were three hospitals, having a seven hundred-bed capacity, two hundred of which were charity. The types of service available were -- medical, surgical, dental, nursing, and obstetrical, all of which, with the exception of the obstetrical, were of poor quality. In most cases, medical equipment in these hospitals was old and obsolete. Common drugs were not always available.
13. There were controls in the local health administration for tuberculosis, venereal diseases, sanitation, infant maternity, and child health, but these controls were poorly managed, with no regular system for check-ups. There were no social services for following up of infectious diseases. Communicable diseases were supposed to be reported, but no punishment was inflicted for failure to do so. Children were immunized against smallpox; the general public was immunized against typhus during an epidemic only, which was done poorly and not regulated. The people were dependent 100% upon the government agencies for health assistance.

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14. [] health and sanitation of Rovno --

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Health conditions	Fair
Sanitation	Poor to very poor
Medical care	Fair
Dental care	Fair
Hospital care	Poor
Climatic effect on children	Poor
Climatic effect on adults	Fair

Warm clothing, sufficient and nutritious food, and proper sanitation would be necessary to overcome these conditions. Hazards affecting infants and children were dysentery, meningitis, and polio.

15. There were nine elementary schools and eight high schools, in none of which English was taught. There was one college for teachers and one agricultural college. There was a public school for nurses, at which 250 to three hundred could attend, but the quality of training and the teaching facilities were very poor.
16. All drugs were imported, although local medical plants were utilized to a small degree.

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